

10 Great Places to Be Red, White, & Blue

Patriotism — that indefinable blend of pride, love of country, reverence, a sense of being connected, and an awareness of duty and responsibility. For many Americans, it was a faintly felt, even anachronistic emotion before September 11. Patriots were people in history books. But the feeling has since swept the nation. Patriotism, in one of its purest forms, can be evoked by a historic or symbolic place. “You go there,” says William Bennett, co-director of Empower America, “and you say ‘Once upon a time.’ All of these places have a once-upon-a-time quality.” The editor of such books as *Our Sacred Home*, *The Children’s Book of America*, and *The Children’s Book of Heroes*, William describes these symbolic places to feel patriotic.

Marine Corps War Memorial

Washington DC

The 32-foot statue of 5 Marines and a Navy corpsman raising the American flag atop Mount Suribachi during the Iwo Jima battle is based on a famous 1945 photograph. “It’s an incredible place, filled with memories and significance.”

Pikes Peak

Pikes Peak CO

With its commanding location in the Rocky Mountains Front Range,

14,110-foot Pikes Peak offers a view that is said to be the inspiration for Katharine Lee Bates when she wrote *America the Beautiful* in 1893. “Part of our patriotism is a belief that we are specially blessed with the beauty of this country.”

Independence Hall

Philadelphia PA

In the Assembly Room here, the Declaration of Independence was issued, our flag’s design approved, and the Constitution drafted. “De Tocqueville said the American Revolution was established by thought and reflection, not by force. And this is where it happened.”

Statue of Liberty

New York NY

A gift from France to the US, and dedicated in 1886, the 152-foot figure that stands upon the 150-foot Liberty Island pedestal is sheathed in copper. On the tablet, in Roman numerals, is the date: July 4, 1776. “It’s a recognition by others of what America stands for.” 212.363.3200.

Mount Rushmore

Keystone SD

The 60-foot carved busts of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln



Be Red, White, & Blue *(continued)*

represent 150 years of American history. They took well over a decade for artist/sculptor Gutzon Borglum to cut into the granite of South Dakota's Black Hills. "When I saw it, it just captured my heart." 605.574.3171.

US Military Academy

West Point NY

General George Washington established his headquarters here in 1779, and President Thomas Jefferson signed the law in 1802 that established it as an academy. "It's the oldest continuously occupied military post in America. Duty, honor, country. It stands for readiness." 845.938.2638.

Antietam National Battlefield

Sharpsburg MD

The Civil War battle fought here on September 17, 1862 is called the bloodiest single day of violence in American history. Fought to a savage standstill before Robert E. Lee withdrew, it left 3650 dead and more than 17,000 wounded. President Abraham Lincoln used it as a chance to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. "It concentrates the mind, as Lincoln said, thinking about the amount of death that went on in such a short time there." 301.432.5124.



The Alamo

San Antonio TX

The Texans preserve it as sacred ground — the stone mission where James Bowie, David Crockett, William Travis, and perhaps 180 others fought to the death against the Mexican army of General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna on March 6, 1836. "American courage." An estimated 2.5 million visit every year. 210.225.1391.

North Bridge, Minute Man National Historical Park

Concord MA

It was "the shot heard 'round the world." The first skirmish between rebellious Americans and British regulars was from opposite sides of this bridge, today an authentic reproduction of the original. The date was April 19, 1775, "and this was the beginning of our liberty." The site is part of a 900-acre park. 978.369.6993.

Lincoln Memorial

Washington DC

Anchoring the west end of the National Mall, this temple-like memorial (dedicated in 1922) faces the Washington Monument and, beyond that, the Capitol. Inside, to the right and left of the seated figure of Abraham Lincoln, are the words of his Gettysburg Address and second Inaugural. "I go there 3 or 4 times a week. It's a holy place of liberty and equality." 202.426.6841.

